

A new *Semicassis* from Western Australia

(Mollusca, Gastropoda, Cassidae)

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Semicassis westralis, spec. nov. is described and compared with similar species of the *Semicassis pyrum* group.

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Semicassis westralis, spec. nov.

Types. Holotype: Port Hedland, Western Australia, from 270 m (Zoologische Staatssammlung München, Reg. No. 19960634). – Paratype: Same data (Collection K. Kreipl, Öhringen).

Type locality. Port Hedland, Western Australia, from 270 m depth.

Description of holotype

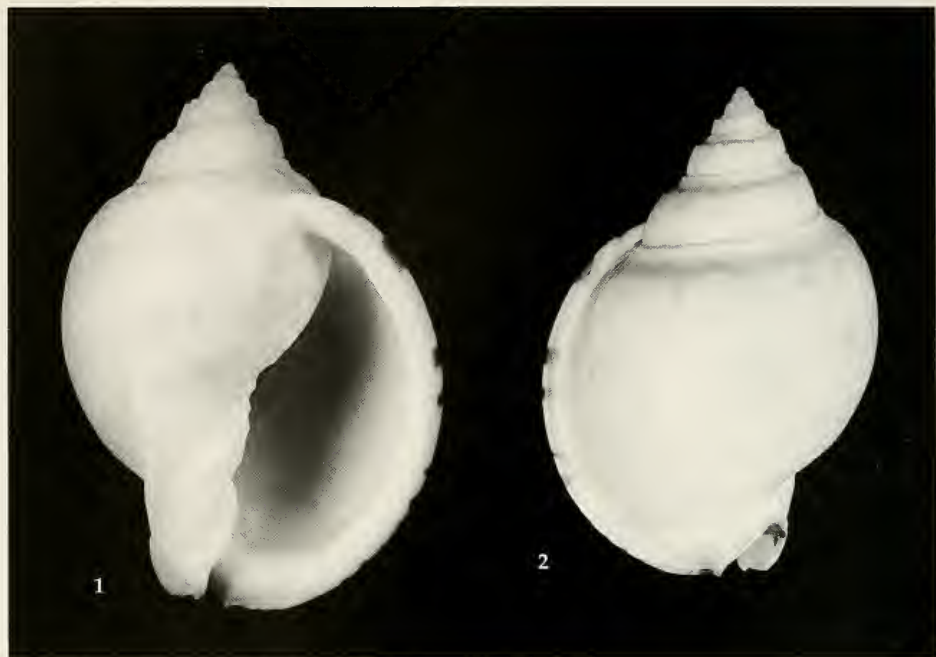
Height: 51.7 mm, width: 31.1 mm. Shell moderately thick with a high spire; protoconch consisting of 2 ½ smooth whorls; teleoconch consisting of 5 whorls, body whorl large and bulbous giving the shell a pyriforme shape, body whorl sculptured with numerous fine growth lines; early whorls strongly spirally striate and finely axially striate with distinct knobs on the shoulder, these knobs get obsolete on the shoulder of the body whorl; flat subsutural groove; outer lip with small elongate teeth along its entire length getting weaker at the posterior end of the aperture; columella ridged with more or less prominent lirae. Colour creamy-white with 5 spiral bands of very weak yellowish diffuse spots, outer edge of outer lip with 14 reddish-brown stripes; siphonal canal tipped with brown; inside of aperture creamy-white.

Measurements of paratype: Height: 56.1 mm, width: 36 mm.

Remarks. This new species is pictured in Barry Wilson (1993) "Australian Marine Shells", vol. 1, pl. 37, fig. 8, as *Semicassis* cf. *pyrum*.

Discussion

This new species is obviously closely related to *Semicassis pyrum* (Lamarck, 1822), especially to the relatively high-spired form *stadiale* Hedley, 1914, but differs by its more pyriform shape and the ridged columella. *Semicassis pyrum* f. *stadiale* grows much bigger (up to 110 mm) and has less colour stripes on its outer lip. From *Semicassis pauciruge* (Menke, 1843) it differs by its thinner shell, the knobs on the shoulder of the early whorls of the teleoconch and by the lack of the yellow-brown colour of the interior of the aperture.



Figs 1, 2. *Semicassis westralis*, spec. nov. Holotype. 1. Ventral view. 2. Dorsal view.

References

- Abbott, R. T. 1968. The helmet shells of the world – Part 1. – *Indo-Pacific Mollusca* 2(9): 7-201
Wilson, B. R. 1993. *Australian Marine Shells*, vol. 1: 229-235
– – & K. Gillett 1971. *Australian Shells*: 66-71